

# MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Conservation Working Group  
Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 1997

Conservation Working Group (CWG) members in attendance were: Rachel Saunders, Chair (Center for Marine Conservation); Jack Wickham (Sierra Club-Ventana Chapter); David Iverson (Save Our Shores); Vicki Nichols (Save Our Shores); Daphne White (Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History); and Joanne Flanders and Lisa de Marignac (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary).

Guests in attendance were: David McIntyre (United Nations Association, Monterey Chapter); and Patrick Cotter (MBNMS).

## I. CWG Administration

### A. General Announcements

- The next CWG meeting is scheduled for January 20, 1998 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office.
- Meeting schedule for 1998 - third Tuesday of the month, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. See Attachment A.
- Other important dates:
  - SAC meeting - 12/5/97
  - SEP meeting - 11/20/97
  - Vessel Traffic Work Group meeting - 12/10/97
  - Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Network meetings - 11/20/97 and 12/18/97
  - BAY NET Graduations - 11/22/97 and 11/23/97
  - Bill Ballantine at the Patagonia - 12/9/97
- David Iverson announced his resignation from the CWG and the SAC. He will be focusing his volunteer efforts on local Half Moon Bay organizations. Rachel, on behalf of the CWG, thanked him for his contributions to the group.

## II. ÒYear of the OceanÓ Planning

David McIntyre, President of the Monterey Chapter of the United Nations Association, presented an overview of the planning for the ÒYear of the OceanÓ. The results of two small meetings indicate support for the development of a slogan celebrating 1998 as the year of the ocean. The United Nations Association will coordinate existing programs within local agencies and organizations. Goals for the ÒYear of the OceanÓ include:

- Development of a master calendar available on the web, which should be available within a few weeks and will be linked to other organizations;
- Coordination with the media for getting the word out on ocean-related activities occurring throughout 1998;
- Development of materials for local schools on the ÒYear of the OceanÓ;
- Availability of a UNESCO video press kit;
- World-wide press conferences during December 1997;

- Development of posters for participating organizations and agencies;
- Stamp series;
- International conferences and symposia;
- Oceans Charter signed by individuals.

David has been working on this project with Liz Love and Karin Strasser Kauffman, and he would like to have a kick-off reception in Monterey the night before the Sanctuary Symposium. David is hoping to raise \$25,000-\$30,000 in foundation donations.

David requested that local agencies and organizations provide him with their calendar events. His phone number is 624-3517.

### III. Vessel Traffic Update

Vicki Nichols provided an update on a BC/US Oil Spill Task Force meeting with local citizen groups. A concern addressed at the meeting was the perception that the Coast Guard appears to be aligned with industry. The next meeting of this group is scheduled for January 1997 in San Francisco. The group is closely watching the Vessel Traffic Work Group and plans to model it for the whole west coast.

Vicki announced that she is looking for any information on whale migrations patterns.

Vicki provided an update on the Vessel Traffic Work Group. She observed that it seems that strategy decisions will be made on distances from shore at the next meeting. The group is hoping to hold public meetings sometime this spring

Joanne Flanders reported that Ed Cassano has been in touch with HAZMAT to obtain vessel modeling information, and she suggested holding off on the discussion of distances from shore if the information is not gathered in time for the December meeting. She also noted that she and Holly Price will be meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA staff in Washington, D.C. to discuss vessel traffic.

### IV. MBNMS Office Report

Joanne Flanders gave the MBNMS office report. See Attachment B. The following items were not included in the written report:

- The new Sanctuary Superintendent's name will be announced next week;
- Jack Wickham commented on the ATOC cable issue; if the existing cable was used at Pt. Sur, the current problem would not exist;
- Jack expressed concern that there is no sound expert on the SAC; Rachel suggested that this expertise would be best utilized on the RAP.

### V. Lessons from Recent Oil/Hazardous Materials Spills

Patrick Cotter, MBNMS, gave a report on the Mystery Oil Spill which occurred on Friday, October 24, 1997 at Sunset Beach. The beach was quarantined four local fire departments responded. Initial results indicated that the spill was sardine oil. Birds continued to wash ashore, with numbers reaching 400

during a week's time. 350 volunteers cycled through the Oiled Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center in Santa Cruz. Two labs are disagreeing on whether the spill was sardine oil or vegetable oil. At this point, there is no responsible party. The Center took in a total of 500 birds. Approximately one third died and one third were euthanized. As of November 15, 1997, 214 birds have been released. The top three species brought in were western grebes, common loons, and surf scoters. Lessons learned from the spill include the need for improvement in the following areas:

- beach assessment process
- tracking time and expenses
- volunteer health and safety procedures
- preparation in the event of larger spills
- representation of volunteer response groups on the CWG
- volunteer numbers

Aaron King and Eric Nigg participated in assessment of the Platform Irene Spill.

#### VI. Issue/Program Updates

Jack Wickham suggested that all the working groups meet to listen to presentations on ATOC and LFA. Participants noted that LFA was on the CA Coastal Commission agenda for their December 12, 1997 meeting in Marin.

#### VII. Next Agenda Items

- WQPP - Holly Price
- SAC Membership
- Nominations for Conservation Award for Symposium
- Pinniped/Fisheries Update

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa de Marignac

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1998 CWG Meeting Schedule  
MBNMS Office Report

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